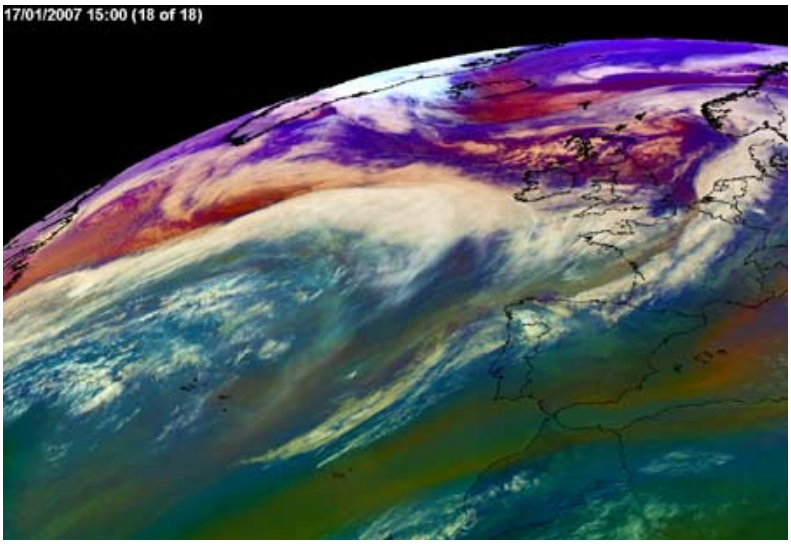
News release

17 January 2007

Severe gales set to cause widespread disruption

Forecasters at the Met Office continue to predict a spell of dramatic weather across the UK with gales and heavy rain tomorrow followed by a marked change to much colder weather over the weekend.



View from 33000 km of the developing storm about to hit the UK
Image courtesy of Eumetsat

On Thursday, the southern half of the UK will see heavy rain and the strongest winds with gales or severe gales in many areas. Damaging gusts of 60–70 miles per hour could cause travel disruption and the public are advised to keep up to date with the very latest forecast for their area. Exposed coasts and hills could see gusts as high as 80 miles per hour.

For Scotland, the Met Office is predicting the risk of snow, with as much as 25 cm over high ground but with the chance that central Scotland could also see a few centimetres.

In contrast to the recent mild weather, temperatures will fall over the weekend, with snow and widespread frosts becoming the main focus of concern. There is a risk of disruption over eastern and northern parts of the UK.

Information on roads and traffic for your area can be found on the following web sites: Highways Agency, Traffic Scotland, Traffic Wales and TrafficWatch for Northern Ireland.

As the national weather service for the UK, the Met Office issues severe weather warnings for the country. These, and advice on how to prepare for severe weather, can be found on this web site.

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